

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 USIA-06 PC-01  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 TRSE-00 IO-13 AGRE-00  
/103 W

-----051108 026666 /12

R 030858Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4615  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KIGALI 229

JOINT STATE/AID/USIA/PC

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, EAID, RW, LY, CG  
SUBJECT: TRENDS IN RWANDA: FEB 1977

### 1. SUMMARY:

RWANDA CONCENTRATED ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS FOREIGN  
MINISTERS AND HEADS OF STATE ARRIVED FOR LONG-AWAITED  
OCAM SUMMIT CONFERENCE FEB 9-10. BARELY CATCHING ITS  
BREATH, THE NEXT WEEK THE GOR HOSTED A DONORS' ROUND TABLE  
WHICH PROVED HELPFUL IN SYNTHESIZING GOR AND DONORS'  
EXPECTATIONS FOR NEW FIVE YEAR PLAN. IN BACKGROUND,  
MINISTERIAL DELEGATION FROM LIBYA ARRIVED DURING OCAM  
CONFERENCE TO NEGOTIATE SERIES OF FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS  
WHICH LED TO AN ULTIMATUM FROM DISPLEASED GOVERNOR OF  
NATIONAL BANK. THESE PREOCCUPATIONS LEFT FOOD CRISIS ON  
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BACK BURNER, BUT FORTUNATELY NATURE WAS HELPFUL AS PROSEPECTS  
FOR A SUCCESSFUL "MINOR" HARVEST IMPROVED. END SUMMARY

### 2. OCAM: FINALLY OVER:

AFTER TWO AND A HALF YEARS OF PLANNING, THE OCAM HEADS  
OF STATE CONFERENCE WAS LESS THAN THE TRIUMPHAL CAPSTONE

OF HABYARIMANA'S FOREIGN POLICY OF OUVERTURE. ALL OCAM COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED AT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, BUT ONLY TWO PRESIDENTS, JAMES MANCHAM OF THE SEYCHELLES AND FELIX HOUPHOUET BOIGNY OF IVORY COAST, JOINED HABYARIMANA AT SUMMIT. AS LATTER HAD STRESSED TO REPORTERS, CONFERENCE WAS ABLE TO ACT SO LONG AS ALL MEMBERS REPRESENTED, AND IT TOOK VARIETY OF STEPS TO PROCEED WITH PROJECTS CONSISTENT WITH OCAM'S NEW ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FOCUS, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF GUARANTEE AND COOPERATION FUND WITH HEADQUARTERS IN BENIN. CONFERENCE ALSO AGREED DISCUSS RELATIONSHIP OF TECHNICAL BODIES, NOW OPEN TO NON-OCAM MEMBERS, TO PARENT ORGANIZATION IN SPECIAL MEETING IN APRIL IN DAKAR. HOWEVER, UNLIKELY CONFERENCE OR MEMORIES OF IT WILL HAVE GREAT EFFECT ON RWANDA, WHICH WILL HOLD PRESIDENCY UNTIL 1979 MEETING IN BENIN, THAT HABYARIMANA MIGHT HAVE WISHED. MOST OFFICIALS INVOLVED WITH ACTIVITIES HAVE LITTLE TO SAY AND POINT TO FOREIGN VISITORS'EVALUATION OF CONFERENCE AS SUCCESS. FACT SUMMIT POORLY ATTENDED DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE HURT HABYARIMANA POLITICALLY BECAUSE RWANDANS INCLINED BLAME MANY OCAM PROBLEMS ON FRENCH. HABYARIMANA DID GAIN IN TERMS OF PRESTIGE AND RECOGNITION FOR RWANDA AMONG AFRICAN STATES, AND OUVERTURE WILL CONTINUE, BUT AT HOME, MOST LASTING REMINDERS OF CONFERENCE MAY BE FRENCH-BUILT LUXURY HOTEL. CONFERENCE CENTER, AND NEW BOULEVARD TO AIRPORT.

### 3. DONORS' ROUND TABLE: RESULTS ENCOURAGING:

BARELY PAUSING TO CATCH ITS BREATH AFTER OCAM, THE GOR  
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TURNED TO THE DONOR ROUND TABLE FEB. 17-19. WHILE MEETINGS WERE NOT RESOUNDING SUCCESS, GOR DECISION TO CONCENTRATE ON FOOD PRODUCTION GIVE ATTENTION TO POPULATION PROBLEM, AND USE AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT ENCOURAGED DONORS. THREE-DAY MEETING FOCUSED ON FOUR AREAS OF CONCERN: RURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; INDUSTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES; INFRASTRUCTURE; AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. GOAL IS TO BETTER LOT OF RWANDA'S 95 PERCENT RURAL POPULATION AND PROPOSED MEANS INCLUDE IMPROVEMENT OF FOOD STORAGE AND MARKETING CAPACITY, EXPANSION OF EXTENSION SERVICES, AND INCREASED EMPHASIS ON FARM-ORIENTED VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. IN INDUSTRIAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECTORS, EMPHASIS WILL BE ON LOCAL LABOR-INTENSIVE EFFORTS RATHER THAN EXPENSIVE CAPITAL INTENSIVE APPROACHES. DESPITE AGREEMENT THIS SUBJECT, DONORS LAMENTED DISPROPORTIONATE CONCERN WITH "MODERN" SECTORS; HOWEVER, THEY DID AGREE FUNDING NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES INCLUDING METHANE GAS IN LAKE KIVU. DISCUSSION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROBLEMS LED AGREEMENT FOR BOTH SIDES TO DO BETTER AT MODALITIES

OF ASSISTANCE. PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANT OUTCOME OF MEETING IS AGREEMENT HOLD MINI-ROUNDTABLES TO PERMIT COORDINATING WITHIN SECTORS, DEVELOPMENT OF MORE CONCRETE GOR PRIORITIES, AND MONITORING OF PLAN'S PROGRESS. WHILE MEETING DID NOT MEET ALL EXPECTATIONS, IT DEMONSTRATED RWANDA'S CONTINUED NEED FOR DEVELOPING PLANNING CAPACITY, PERMITTED HELPFUL EXCHANGE IDEAS AND LAID FOUNDATION FOR GREATER CONCENTRATION FOOD PRODUCTION SECTOR IN WHICH USG MOST INTERESTED.

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#### 4. LIBYA THREATENS GOR ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY:

MOST NOTABLE AS SILENT ROUND TABLE OBSERVER WAS LIBYA. PREVIOUS WEEK LIBYA HAD FIELDDED HIGH LEVEL AID MISSION WHICH NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS FOR ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WORTH 10-15 MILLION DOLLARS OVER NEXT THREE TO FIVE YEARS. ACCORDS SIGNED BY MIN AGRICULTURE WHO LED GOR NEGOTIATORS IN ABSENCE OF GOV. NAT'L BANK AND MINFINANCE AND ECONOMY, HAVE SET OFF A FUROR IN HIGH-LEVEL FINANCIAL CIRCLES. ACCORD FOR CREATION COMMERCIAL EXPORT CREDIT BANK CALLS FOR STATUTES TO TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER EXITING RWANDAN LAW, PROVIDIING I.A.

BOTH UNLIMITED LINE OF CREDIT WITH NAT'L BANK, AND UNLIMITED  
TRANSFER OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE (THEREBY ENABLING LIBYANS--  
THEORETICALLY--TO DRAIN THE GOR TREASURY OVERNIGHT). GOV.  
NAT'L BANK BIRARA HAS WRITTEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT SAYING EVEN  
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PRESIDENT DOES NOT HAVE RIGHT ABDICATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
COUNTRY'S MONETARY POLICY AND IF TREATY RATIFIED IMMEDIATELY  
AS LIBYANS HAVE DEMANDED, HE WILL RESIGN. WHILE PRES. OFTEN  
LISTENS TO BIRARA, UNCLEAR WHETHER HE WILL THIS TIME OR  
IF HE DOES WHETHER HE WILL REPUDIATE ACCORD AND FIRE MINAGRI-  
CULTURE (WHO KNOWN FOR LACK OF NEGOTIATING ABILITY).

LESS CLEAR ARE LIBYANS' REASONS FOR CONTINUED  
INTEREST IN RWANDA. OTHER PROJECTS INCLUDE 5 MILLION DOLLAR  
ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN MID-1977,  
CREATION OF \$40,000 ARAB LANGUAGE SECTION AT NAT'L UNIV.,  
CONSTRUCTION OF 3 MILLION DOLLAR HOTEL IN KIGALI, DEVELOPMENT  
MIXED AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY TO INCLUDE UNDP-BUILT TANNERY,  
\$40,000 ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR RADIO STATION IN FORM OF  
ARAB-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS AND FILMS ON ARAB CULTURE, TWO  
DOCTORS FOR NEW MEDICAL MISSION, SURVEYS OF ENERGY AND ROAD  
PROJECTS, AND A GIFT OF 15 TRACTORS TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT. CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST LIBYA  
INTERESTED MAKING RWANDA ONE OF ITS CLIENT STATES IN DRIVE  
TO DEVELOP SUPPORT THROUGHOUT AFRICA. VISIT WAS EVIDENTLY  
TIMED TAKE ADVANTAGE FOR PREOCCUPATION WITH OCAM AND  
CONSEQUENT ABSENCE OF MORE SKILLED NEGOTIATORS. WHETHER  
ATTRACTIVENESS LIBYAN MONEY TO POVERTY STRICKEN RWANDA  
WILL BE ENOUGH OF INDUCEMENT THROW CAUTION TO WIND REMAINS  
TO BE SEEN.

##### 5. FOOD CRISIS: NATURE LENDS A HELPING HAND:

WHILE GOR CONCENTRATED ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, NATURE  
LENT A HELPING HAND TO FOOD CRISIS. AND WELCOME IT WAS,  
AS FEW OTHER HANDS HAVE HELPED OUT. NO NEW OFFERS OF ASSIST-  
ANCE HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE FEB 4 MEETING, AT WHICH SEVERAL  
REPRESENTATIVES OUTLINED ACTIONS THEIR GOVT'S AGENCIES  
INTENDED TO TAKE. AMONG THESE WERE OUR OWN \$25,000 DOLLAR CONTRI-  
BUTION TO OPROVIA, RWANDAN STATE-OWNED FOOD MARKETING  
ORGANIZATION WHICH IS HANDLING FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AND  
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ARRIVAL AID EXPERT WHO CURRENTLY SURVEYING SITUATION AND  
MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO GOR. FORTUNATELY, NATURAL

EVENTS HAVE BEGUN TO ALLEVIATE CRISIS: UNSEASONAL RAINS  
HAVE HELPED FARMERS WHO PLANTED SUBSTITUTE CROPS AFTER BEANS  
BURNED OUT, AND PLANTING LEVELS FOR "MINOR" SEASON WHICH  
BEGAN EARLY FEB APPEAR NEAR NORMAL. THUS, IF WEATHER  
HOLDS AND RAINS CONTINUE TO EARLY JUNE AND THEN STOP FOR  
HARVEST, WORST OF CRISIS MAY BE OVERCOME. SHORTFALLS DO  
REMAIN, PARTICULARLY IN REGIONS OF BUGESERA AND GITARAMA,  
BUT SURPLUSES IN OTHER AREAS CAN BE REDISTRIBUTED, IF MEANS  
FOUND TO PURCHASE AND TRANSPORT THEM.  
CRIGLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, EAID, OCON, RW, LY, CG, OCAM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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